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THE WAR CLOUD.

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JAPAN'S NOTE TO RUSSIA.

A TIME LIMIT MADE.

JUSTIFICATION OF HOSTILE ACTION.

LONDON, Dec. 28. The Kobe correspondent of the "Daily Mail" telegraphs that it is reported that M. Komura, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his note to Russia, allowed her a fortnight in which to give an answer.

Dec. 27. It is reported that the time limit for an answer set by Japan in her note to Russia is January 7.

Newspapers of Tokyo declare that the passage of a single additional Russian warship through the Bosphorus and the taking of a single further step in Manchuria, would justify hostile action by Japan.

JAPANESE EX-MINISTERS SPEAK.

WARLIKE UTTERANCES.

LONDON, Dec. 28. At a dinner of the Oriental Association at Tokyo, M. Kato, formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, said that he deeply regretted the people had not been taken into the confidence of the Government. Nevertheless, should the Mikado declare war, the nation would support him to a man.

M. Okuma, an ex-Premier of Japan, spoke in a similar strain. He declared that besides a feeling of civility, the sense of self-preservation required Japan to make a stand for China's integrity.

RUSSIA PURCHASING WARSHIPS.

LONDON, Dec. 28. Advice which have been received from Genoa are to the effect that Russia has offered a high price for two warships, Moreno and Rivadavia, for the Argentine Republic, now being built in Italy.

(The Moreno and Rivadavia are sister ships, and are being built at Genoa. The former was launched in 1902, and the latter in 1903. Both vessels are of 2,000 tons displacement, with an indicated horse-power of 12,000, providing for a speed of 20 knots. The armour is 12 inches on the sides, and 8 inches on the ends. The armament consists of 12 12-inch guns, 16 6-inch guns, and 16 3-inch guns. The complement of men for each ship is 600.)

THE PORT OF CHIN-WANG-TAO.

"ALLEGED" RUSSIAN INTRIGUE.

LONDON, Dec. 28. After the trouble with the Boxers Changtong, the Director of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, re-organised the company, and the English board assumed control of the affairs of the company, the capital invested in which is British.

China controls Chin-wang-tao, which has gradually changed from a Chinese to practically a foreign port.

The Russians are strongly suspected of wishing to acquire Chin-wang-tao through the Chinese Government, and the disposition of the company is considered the first step necessary to this end.

BRITISH FISCAL POLICY.

GERMAN VIEW OF PROTECTION.

IMPETUS TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A CENTRAL EUROPE UNION.

LONDON, Dec. 27. Dr. Borgias, the director of the German Merchants' Association for Commercial Treaties, declares that Chambers of Commerce of Germany are convinced that Mr. Chamberlain's protective policy will give the British Empire a new impetus, and possibly carry it to the height of its political and industrial power.

Dr. Borgias says that it is essential for the Central European nations to form a commercial union to cope with British preponderance.

Pleas of money, he says, would be available for such an agitation. The formation of the union has already been initiated.

DEPUTATION TO CANADA.

LONDON, Dec. 25. The Rosebery anti-Chamberlain party has despatched Mr. H. Herbert and Mr. E. S. Montague to Canada to learn the sentiment of the Dominion regarding Mr. Chamberlain's policy.

(The above appeared in a portion of Saturday's issue.)

IN THE PANTOMIMES.

LONDON, Dec. 25. The fiscal question has invaded the pantomimes, whose topical allusions are frequent.

(The above appeared in a portion of Saturday's issue.)

THE WOOLLEN TRADE.

LONDON, Dec. 25. Mr. J. H. Baileys, the Unionist candidate for Dumfries last night, stated that in the southern part of Scotland the woollen trade now employs only 24,000 men, compared with 40,000 before the McKinley tariff was imposed in the United States.

PUNISHMENT IN AFGHANISTAN.

LONDON, Dec. 25. Some members of one of the Khel tribes, settled in Kabul, stole by burglariously breaking into a dwelling 600 rupees. The booty was found in their lodgings.

The instructions of the Ameyr the tongue and eyes of the criminals were torn out.

(The above appeared in a portion of Saturday's issue.)

THE STEEL TRADE IN AMERICA.

LONDON, Dec. 25. Non-union iron and steel works of the United States are reducing the wages of employees by 10 per cent.

(The above appeared in a portion of Saturday's issue.)

THE COTTON CRISIS.

LONDON, Dec. 25. The Lancashire cotton mills are prolonging the Christmas holidays owing to the cotton crisis in the United States.

A WELCOME PRESENT.

A box of LLOYD'S 34 CRYSTAL TEA, a REAL TEA, 515 6p, 34 11p 12p, 10p, 8p, 6p, 4p, 2p, 1p, 1/2p, 1/4p, 1/8p, 1/16p, 1/32p, 1/64p, 1/128p, 1/256p, 1/512p, 1/1024p, 1/2048p, 1/4096p, 1/8192p, 1/16384p, 1/32768p, 1/65536p, 1/131072p, 1/262144p, 1/524288p, 1/1048576p, 1/2097152p, 1/4194304p, 1/8388608p, 1/16777216p, 1/33554432p, 1/67108864p, 1/134217728p, 1/268435456p, 1/536870912p, 1/1073741824p, 1/2147483648p, 1/4294967296p, 1/8589934592p, 1/17179869184p, 1/34359738368p, 1/68719476736p, 1/137438953472p, 1/274877906944p, 1/549755813888p, 1/1099511627776p, 1/2199023255552p, 1/4398046511104p, 1/8796093022208p, 1/17592186044416p, 1/35184372088832p, 1/70368744177664p, 1/140737488355328p, 1/281474976710656p, 1/562949953421312p, 1/1125899906842624p, 1/2251799813685248p, 1/4503599627370496p, 1/9007199254740992p, 1/18014398509481984p, 1/36028797018963968p, 1/72057594037927936p, 1/144115188075855872p, 1/288230376151711744p, 1/576460752303423488p, 1/1152921504606846976p, 1/2305843009213693952p, 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